

## **Collection, transport and storage of diseased and healthy tissue**

### **RD Gates**

1. Coral sample is removed from colony using hammer and chisel or pliers. One set is used for diseased coral and one is for healthy.
2. The sample is placed into a plastic zip bag.
3. After the dive the sealed bags containing the coral are stored on ice in a cooler until return to the Hiialakai.
4. Collection tools are sterilized in bleach after each dive.
5. Upon return to the Hialakai, the tissue is scraped off the skeleton of the coral using a razor blade, and placed into DNA extraction buffer in a 1.5 mL microfuge tube. This buffer kills all organic material. The remaining skeleton is then bleached and then stored in a ziplock bag for reference, and the original collection bag discarded (after rinsed in bleach).
6. The work area in the wet lab of the Hiialakai is then sterilized with bleach after sample processing.